



LE MOIS DE LA PHOTO À MONTRÉAL 2011
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

THEME PROPOSED
Spectral Light
Guest Curator: Scott McLeod

Theme: *Spectral Light*

There has never been a time without the photograph, without the residue and writing of light.
— Eduardo Cadava

Light. It's all-pervasive and all-encompassing. And the significance of light for photography is incalculable, for it is not merely significant but *integral* to photography, as it is to vision and, indeed, to life itself. Bring the subject of light under consideration and, with great speed, it unfolds, spiralling endlessly into ever-expanding fields. The study of light becomes inseparable from that of time, space, history, memory, mourning and death.

It is no coincidence that, in the Judeo-Christian creation myth, the first thing that God created was light. The story of Genesis states that, following the creation of the world, God looked upon everything He had created, and He saw that it was good. Light is essential to notions of the visible and invisible, and it is embedded in our concepts of knowledge and understanding. Indeed, the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge are commonly referred to as illumination, elucidation, enlightenment. Light, then, as the focus of the 12th presentation of Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal, provides a coherent conceptual framework that directly engages with the foundations, history and technology of photography, while speaking to some of the most profound philosophical ruminations on meaning and life.

The notion of *spectral* light refers to the spectral or ghostly character of photography – what Siegfried Kracauer referred to as “the image wander[ing] ghostlike through the present” – and illuminates the fact that all photographs, whether taken moments, years or decades ago, are spectres of the past. From the origins of photography (in the *camera obscura* and the development of the lens), through to historical manifestations of photography's spectral character (such as spirit photography), and contemporary manifestations (in photographic prints, ephemeral sculptures, video art and light installations), the event will explore the place of light in the technological, conceptual and philosophical evolution of contemporary photographic art.

Scott McLeod
Guest Curator
Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal 2011

Type of work being sought

Scott McLeod is interested in works that evoke the spectral or ghostly character of photography. Examples of such works include those that are based upon or inspired by photographs from another era, depict persons who are lost or dead, evoke subtle, mysterious presences, or speak to the subjects of time, space, memory, mourning or death. While the form of the work may exceed the scope of the conventional photographic print to include ephemeral sculptures, video art and light installations, it must engage with the subject of photography and the theme of the event.

Biographical note

In October 2009, Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal announced that Scott McLeod, a curator of contemporary art specializing in photography, media and digital art, had assumed the role of Guest Curator for the 2011 presentation of the event, which will take place from September 8 to October 9, 2011. In the past fifteen years, McLeod has curated more than forty exhibitions and authored more than thirty catalogue essays and other texts. Since 1999, he has been the director and curator of Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art in Toronto, where he also serves as the co-programmer of the Urban Field Speakers Series, the editor of the publication series *Critical Perspectives in Contemporary Art*, and the editor and publisher of *Prefix Photo* magazine. Under his directorship, Prefix ICA has presented solo exhibitions of the work of Lida Abdul, Yael Bartana, Willie Doherty, Harun Farocki, Laurent Grasso, Runa Islam, Oscar Muñoz, Walid Raad, Rosângela Rennó, and Lorna Simpson, among others. A member of AICA International Association of Art Critics and IKT International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art, he lives and works in Toronto.



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GUIDELINES
Please read carefully

We are soliciting only artist's works that respond to theme *Spectral Light* as proposed by our Guest Curator for Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal 2011, Scott McLeod (see previous page for details). We are not seeking curatorial proposals. Please read all the information carefully and prepare your submissions according to the instructions below.

The call for submissions is open from **February 11 to March 8, 2010**. All submissions must be sent **by mail** and no documents will be returned. Please do not send proposals or other documents by email. Late submissions, incomplete proposals, submissions by email and/or works unrelated to the theme will not be considered. Artists submitting as a group are asked to identify one participant as co-ordinator. A confirmation of receipt of your proposal will be sent by email and you can expect to receive a response from us by the end of May 2010.

All submissions conforming to instructions described herein and received by the deadline will be carefully reviewed by the Guest Curator and the selection will be made in light of his personal vision of the theme. We anticipate receiving several hundred submissions so, unfortunately, the Guest Curator will not be able to respond personally to each proposal. If he would like any additional information or documents or wishes to organize a studio visit, he will contact you directly.

**Submissions must sent by mail to the address below,
and must be received no later than March 8, 2010:**

Submissions
Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal
661, rue Rose-de-Lima, local 203
Montréal (Québec)
H4C 2L7 Canada

Submissions should include the following:

1. A short **covering letter** explaining how the submission relates to the theme (250 words max.).
2. Visual support material which may include:
 - **10 digital images (maximum)** on CD or DVD (readable by Mac) in JPG (72 dpi, RGB colour mode) or PDF formats (maximum size 1 MB per image). Images must be clearly identified and accompanied by a descriptive image list (title, medium, dimension, date);
 - and/or a **preview video** on CD or DVD (NTSC or PAL), or a Quicktime document on CD or DVD (maximum 5 minutes).
3. A **short CV** for each participant (3 pages maximum).
4. The completed **Check list and information form**.

All **text documents** must be sent in digital format (on a CD or DVD) readable by Macintosh computers, and should be in Word (.doc – readable in Word Office) or PDF formats.

Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal is not responsible for unreadable, undelivered or lost materials. **No documents will be returned** so please do not send original or irreplaceable material.

About the event

Please visit the “About us” page of our Web site.

If you have any question, please contact:

soumission2011@moisdelaphoto.com | 514 390 0383 | www.moisdelaphoto.com